



Students of the Midway School in the early 1880's are photographed outside their school building. Teachers at the time were Attewall Wootton Sr. and Attewall Wootton Jr.

geography charts and maps. "Commodious and neat" desks were also furnished.

Leo Haefeli, a former teacher, and newspaper correspondent, wrote at the time, "I defy any school district of the same size or even a good many considerably larger to show better educational facilities than are at present furnished to the people of this ward. That these facilities, gratuitous tuition, and sufficient teachers, staff-graded classes, excellent apparatus, convenient rooms have been appreciated by the people of Midway is evident by the fact that out of a legal population of about 270, the opening days of the mid-winter term found an enrollment of about 240, despite the inclement weather. True at the time of the high water tide in the spell of epidemic, the attendance fell off considerably, temporarily more than 60 per cent in the primary department, but the worst is over and the school grounds are reassuming their wanted air of vivacity about the hour when the bell's brazen tongue summons the little and big scholars to their desks and tasks."

In another newspaper column, Mr. Haefeli indicates that school children are perhaps the same from generation to generation. He wrote: "The other day one boy hurt another quite seriously by holding a freshly sharpened lead pencil under him, just as the school mate was about to resume his seat at the desk. Such tomfoolery cannot be reprimanded too severely nor suppressed too promptly."

School teachers of the 1890's were expected to improve themselves

in training, as is evident from the agenda of one meeting of the Wasatch County Education Assn.

With Supt. Wootton in charge, the agenda was as follows:

- (1) A report of a committee appointed to select a list of books to be approved by the members as fit literature to be added to the library;
- (2) A special lecture by Leo Haefeli on the Absurdity of Trying to Make the English Language Fit the Latin Grammar;
- (3) Exercise by E. D. Clyde in using the teachers as a class to illustrate his method of teaching multiplication of common fractions.
- (4) General discussions by members on declension of the English noun;
- (5) Subject of percentages.

Trustees of the schools were also expected to attend these meetings along with the teachers.

When Utah became a state in 1896 it was necessary by law to elect a new school board and C. I. Bronson, John Huber and John Van Wagoner were voted to three, two and one-year terms respectively. Their salary was \$20 per year.

At the first meeting of the new board, they engaged Attewall Wootton as teacher of the grammar grades and principal for \$75 per month, William T. Wootton, intermediate department, \$50 per month; J. E. Morton, second primary, \$50; and Simon Epperson, Primary Department, \$50. In addition to the three rooms in the school house, the Swiss-German Hall was rented for \$5 per month. Custodian at the main building was Louis Coleman, who was paid \$12.50 per month. Andrew Burgener was paid \$5 per month to care for the Swiss-German Hall.

By 1898 the "growing pains" had seriously affected the Midway educational program. Teachers were handling 50 or more pupils each day in crowded, inadequate classrooms.

The school board subsequently called a meeting to discuss the crowded conditions, but the proposals failed to obtain a majority vote, and so they continued on as they had the past year.

By 1900 the school board obtained a vote to proceed with an entirely new school building. They purchased the property north of the present school for \$168.75 from the Midway Town Corporation in February of 1901.

Architect John Boss was asked to draw plans and make estimates for a new building with four rooms. In a meeting of the taxpayers in March, the clerk reported that the school district had \$512 in material and about \$900 in cash to begin the new building. The taxpayers voted a tax of one-half of one per cent to bring in about \$800 more so that at least two rooms could be ready for occupancy by the winter term. Plans for a six-room school were also discussed, but after some discussion were abandoned.

Work then began in earnest, with the board offering \$1.50 per day

to laborers, and \$2.50 per day for laborers with teams of horses. Fred Haueter obtained the masonry bid and John Van Wagoner was requested to obtain the materials and supervise the work. Andrew Johnson was hired for the carpentry work and given authority to hire what help he needed.

More money was needed, however, to finish the building and furnish it, so the taxpayers voted to bond the district for \$2,000 for five years.

On November 25, 1901, without dismissing school, the classes moved into the new building. The grammar grades moved into the south room, upstairs, with T. B. Miller as principal and teacher. The third primary occupied the north room upstairs with Miss Stella Rasmussen as teacher. Miss Rose Shore taught second primary in the north room downstairs and the first primary occupied the south room downstairs with Miss Mary E. Abegglen as teacher. The intermediate grades continued to meet in the old school building with Charles E. Bronson as teacher.

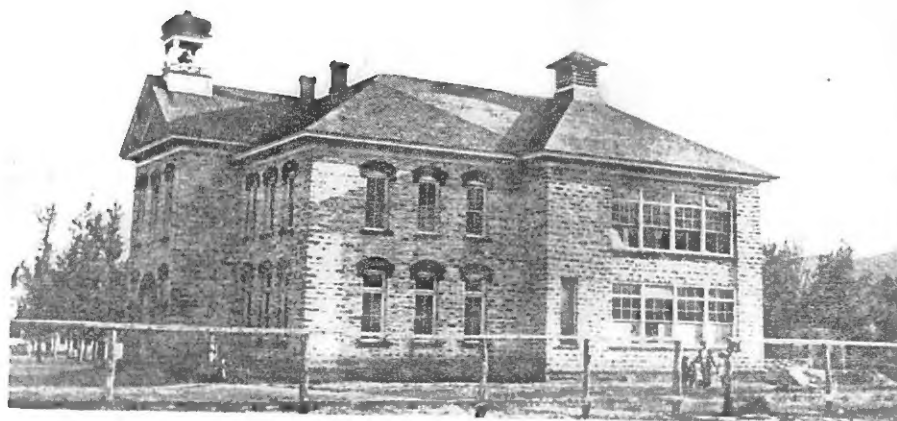


The first graduating class of the Midway School to have formal graduation exercises. Shown in this 1905 group are, seated, left to right, Alfred Sharp, Nellie Provost, Theodore B. Miller, teacher, Ora Galli and Charles Bonner. Standing are Iva Bunnell, Eliza Bronson, Nancy Van Wagoner and Ellen Wilson.

The new building cost some \$5,500 to build. Some of the surplus rock and other materials were sold to provide money for furnishings, a fence and badly needed books.

In 1904 the first students were graduated from the new school's eighth grade program. The four graduates were Myrtle Abplanalp, Belle Wilson, David Clayburn and David J. Wilson.

By 1906 the school's principal, Theodore B. Miller was urging that



The Midway School, constructed of native rock in 1912 and still in use today.

Wasatch County form a high school of its own. He showed the people that they were paying enough in sending their children away to complete their education to support one of the finest high schools in the state.

His dream came true in 1908 when the various school boards in the county approved consolidation and formation of a high school district. The people voted overwhelmingly in favor of local high school instruction and a new board was elected to lay plans for the school. C. I. Bronson and George A. Huntington of Midway were elected to serve on the first board, which was headed by Supt. Orson Ryan.

Since that time, students from Midway have continued their education at Wasatch High School which is located in Heber City.

"Growing pains" were felt in Midway schools again by 1910, and so it was decided to issue bonds totaling \$7,000 for building, furnishing and equipping an addition to the school building.

In constructing the addition, the board allowed \$4.50 per cord of rock, \$1.25 per load of sand, \$2.00 per day for common labor, \$2.50 for powder and drilling, and \$3.50 per day for team work. H. G. Blumenthal was awarded the heating plant bid for \$3,375, while George A. Wootton and Anton Olson received the bids on the carpentry work, materials, completing and furnishing everything but the masonry work and heating plant. Their bid was \$6,985.

It was on March 22, 1912 that the people accepted a proposition by Midway Town to exchange the old school house and lot for one-half of the public square joining the new building. The new sturdy school house, built of native rock, is still serving the needs of the people of Midway today.

Formation of the Wasatch County School Board in 1915 eliminated the need for individual community boards and so the Midway board was abandoned. Some of those who served on the board included David

Van Wagoner, James Lowe, Jeremiah Robey, Alvah J. Alexander, C. I. Bronson, John Huber, John Van Wagoner, Simon Epperson, William L. Van Wagoner, Frederick Hasler, John Watkins, Mark Smith, Attewall Wootton, Jacob Burgener, Conrad Abegglen, George Wardle, George Dabling and Jesse McCarrell.

Since the county school district has been organized, Midway has been represented by the following board members: C. I. Bronson, J. A. Wootton, William L. Van Wagoner, Reed Kohler, Charles Buehler, Fay Van Wagoner and Irvin Bowden.

Principals of the Midway School have included Attewall Wootton Sr., Theodore B. Miller, Thomas Higgs, E. M. Isaacson, James Sorenson, L. S. McQuarrie, Clark Crook, John Pendleton, Karl Probst, Clarence Probst and Mark Rasband.

Some who will be remembered as teachers in Midway schools, in addition to those already named, include Joseph Forbes who lived in the fort string and was one of the early teachers, George Wootton, Attewall Wootton Jr., David Wootton, Dermont Huffaker, Mrs. Oscar (Ida Muddock) Kirkham, Mrs. Lavina Christensen Fugal, who was American Mother of 1955, Charles E. Bronson, Ira Jacobs, Sarah Wood, Moroni Gerber, Lizzie Lindsay, a Mr. Nugent and a Mr. Phelps.

As Wasatch County's second century begins there is every reason to believe that Midway's future educational efforts will be characterized by the same vision, courage and untiring efforts that have been exhibited since pioneer times.

